

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, and re-examination and reconsideration of the subject application, in view of the amendments above and the remarks below, are respectfully requested.

By the above amendments, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3. Claim 3 has accordingly been canceled. Claim 7 was amended for clarity. Additionally, claim 9 has been amended to set forth the temperature of the liquid medium in the dispersing step. Claim 10 has been canceled. Thus, upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-2 and 4-9 will remain pending in the application.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that the claims would be allowable if claim 1 were amended "to add a specific temperature range along with a value of solubility for the adipic acid crystals." In response to the Examiner's comment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include a specific temperature range. Although the Examiner also suggests including a value of solubility for the adipic acid crystals, Applicants believe that it is unnecessary to do so to distinguish over Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,471,001). As seen from Examples 1-3, Anderson et al. teach heating the adipic acid and water to approximately 90°C or 95°C to dissolve the adipic acid and form a solution (which implies only one phase). In contrast, claim 1 now provides that the temperature of the liquid medium is between 20°C and 70°C. The purpose of this relatively low temperature range is to minimize the solubility of the adipic acid crystals in the liquid medium. Anderson et al. do not disclose or suggest dispersing and stirring the adipic acid crystals at such low temperatures. Nor do Anderson et al. teach minimizing the solubility of the adipic

acid crystals in the liquid medium. Accordingly, claims 1-2 and 3-8 are patentable over Anderson et al.

Applicants note the Examiner's suggestion to make claims 9 and 10 dependent upon claim 1. But claims 9 and 10 can't be dependent upon claim 1 because they are directed to a process for treating adipic acid crystals, rather than for the manufacture of adipic acid crystals. Nevertheless, Applicants have canceled claim 10 and have amended claim 9 to be more patentably distinct over Anderson et al. The reference fails to disclose or suggest dispersing adipic acid crystals in a liquid medium at a temperature between 20°C and 70°C to form a mixture of solid and liquid. In sharp contrast to claim 9, Anderson et al. heat adipic acid and water at approximately 90°C or 95°C "to dissolve adipic acid" and form a solution. Col. 4, lines 10-11. Accordingly, claim 9 is also patentable over Anderson et al.

The above amendments should be entered and considered because they place the application in immediate condition for allowance, and because they were submitted at the Examiner's suggestion.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this Reply, or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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